

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02525 170056Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /117 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2093

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: UNIFIL: ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD UNIFIL EFFECTIVENESS

REF: TEL AVIV 5758

1. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART COMPLAINED TO US
EARLY JUNE 16 ABOUT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE OF UNIFIL IN
JERUSALEM POST OF SAME DAY. HE BELIEVES THAT ISRAELI
ATTITUDES TOWARD UNIFIL COULD HAVE DESTRUCTIVE IMPACT.
HE DESCRIBED LEAD ARTICLE AS OPEN ATTACK ON UNIFIL WHOSE
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ONLY PURPOSE ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE SHOULD BE THE
ANNIHILATION OF THE PLO. URQUHART OBSERVED THAT THE
GOI DOES NOT HAVE TO "LIKE" THE UN, BUT THAT BASELESS
ATTACKS ON THE PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN SOUTH LEBANON
WERE UNPORDUCTIVE AND WOULD NOT SERVE ISRAEL'S INTERESTS.

2. LINKING THIS "DEFAMING" OF UNIFIL WITH DAYAN'S LETTER

TO WALDHEIM, URQUHART OBSERVED THAT ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL IS VITAL IF THE FORCE IS TO ENJOY THE CONFIDENCE NECESSARY TO PERMIT LEBANESE AUTHORITY TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN THE AREA. THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IS MAKING THE PROPER STEPS AT LAST AND GOI UNDERMINING OF UNIFIL COULD BRING DISASTROUS RESULTS IN TACKLING THE HADDAD/CHRISTIAN MILITIA PROBLEMS.

3. URQUHART DID NOT SUGGEST USUN UNDERTAKE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON HIS COMPLAINT, BUT WE BELIEVE, IN LIGHT OF MFA DIR GEN EVRON'S REMARKS (TEL AVIV 7630) UNNY'S VIEW MIGHT BE USEFUL IN FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH GOI OFFICIALS.

4. USUN'S CONVERSATIONS WITH UN SECRETARIAT INDICATE CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING EXACT SITUATION ON THE GROUND, BOTH IN REGARD TO INFILTRATION BY PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS AND STATUS OF HADDAD. HADDAD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH UNIFIL IS GREATLY COMPLICATED BY GOL'S REQUEST TO UNIFIL NOT TO DEAL WITH HADDAD IF HE IS NOT OBEYING ORDERS FROM BEIRUT. UNNY FEELS UN FORCES ARE PLACED IN UNTENABLE POSITION WHERE GOL SETS UP UNIFIL AS "FALL GUY" SHOULD GOL RELATIONS WITH HADDAD NOT DEVELOP. IN ANY EVENT, IT APPEARS ERSKINE/HADDAD ARRANGEMENTS ARE FAR FROM AS WELL DEFINED AS GOI ASSERTS.

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5. AS TO EXTENT OF PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION, THE VARIANCE IN ESTIMATES SUGGESTS NO ONE CAN DO BETTER THAN CONJECTURE AT THIS STAGE. HOWEVER, ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD UNIFIL SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINED SOLELY BY INFILTRATION QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD AMB. HERZOG IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH US HAS BEEN QUITE DEFENSIVE ABOUT ISRAELI POSITION TOWARD UNIFIL. (HE VERGED ON APOLOGETIC OVER DAYAN'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM). HE, AS MANY OF US GROPING WITH UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, RECOGNIZES THAT GOL/ARAB COOPERATION WITH UNIFIL WILL FAIL TO DEVELOP AS LONG AS GOI INSISTS ON A TYPE OF PROXY OCCUPATION ALONG THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER. LEONARD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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